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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,040	09/16/2005	Philipp Huemer	14219-083US1 P2002,0763 U	2757
26161	7590	03/02/2009	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			PATEL, DHARTI HARIDAS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2836	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/528,040	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HUEMER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> DHARTI H. PATEL	<b>Art Unit</b> 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-22 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-22 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/18/08, 12/29/08</u> .                                      | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katsuki et al., Patent No. 6,188,307.

With respect to claim 1, Katsuki discloses an assembly [Fig. 5; col. 1 lines 9-13] comprising a first electrical component [Fig. 5, 25] having a first electrical polarity; a second electrical component [Fig. 5, 26] having a second electrical polarity, the first electrical property and the second electrical property being substantially identical [abstract lines 6-8; both thermistors 25 and 26 have resistance]; a housing [Fig. 5, 21] that holds the first electrical component [Fig. 5, 25] and the second electrical component [Fig. 5, 26]; first terminals [Fig. 5, 30] on the housing that contact the first electrical component [Fig. 5, 25]; and second terminals [Fig. 5, 31] on the housing that contact the second electrical component [Fig. 5, 26]; wherein the housing has an underside [Fig. 5, bottom of housing 21]; wherein all terminals [Fig. 5, 30 and 31] of the assembly [Fig/ 1, 21] are on the underside of the housing for surface-mounting the assembly [The apparatus is designed to be surface mounted to communication equipment such as telephone exchanges, which typically comprises electronics mounted on circuit boards]; and wherein the terminals have an arrangement that corresponds to an arrangement of

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contacts on a printed circuit board [Fig. 5; it is inherent that the terminals are printed circuit board connectable in the inline arrangement]; and wherein the housing [Fig. 5, 21] has an upper side that completely covers the first electrical component and the second electrical component [col. 5 lines 66-67 show that another lid can be used to cover the first and second electrical components] and that protects the first electrical component and the second electrical component from a contact voltage [col. 5 lines 58-67].

With respect to claim 2, Katsuki discloses that the first electrical component [Fig. 1, 5] and the second electrical component [Fig. 1, 6] comprise thermistors [col. 3 lines 65-67, abstract lines 3-4], and the first electrical property and the second electrical property comprise a first resistance and a second resistance, respectively, at a predefined temperature [col. 6 lines 32-35].

With respect to claim 3, Katsuki discloses that predefined temperature is 25 degrees Celsius [col. 6 lines 32-35].

With respect to claim 4, Katsuki discloses that the first resistance and the second resistance deviate by no more than 1 ohm [abstract lines 6-8, col. 1, lines 22-24].

With respect to claim 5, Katsuki discloses that a shape of the upper side is indicative of an orientation of the housing [Fig. 5 shows that the housing 21 is rectangle, and the upper side has to be rectangular too to match with the housing].

With respect to claim 6, Katsuki discloses that the upper side of the housing is rectangular in shape [Fig. 5, housing 21 is rectangular as shown].

With respect to claim 8, Katsuki discloses that the upper side of the housing is closed [Fig. 52, the upper side of the housing 21 is closed once another lid is used to increase the seal at the openings of the cavities].

With respect to claim 9, Katsuki teaches that the housing comprises a partition [Fig. 5, 21c] made of electrically insulating material, the partition being between the first and second electrical components [Fig. 5, 25, 26], the partition acting as flashover protection between the first and second electrical components [Col. 5, lines 39-41, Fig. 1, 15, Col. 4, line 2, Col. 4, lines 21-24].

With respect to claim 10, Katsuki teaches that the housing [Fig. 5, 21] comprises plural sides, at least one side of the housing being closed [Fig. 5, 21; upper side of housing 21 is closed].

With respect to claim 11, Katsuki teaches that the housing comprises a material that is substantially inflammable [col. 4 lines 3-7, the definition of thermoplastic resin is the material that offers high resistance to heat].

With respect to claim 12, Katsuki teaches that the first and second terminals [Fig. 5, 30 and 31] are configured for surface mounting of the assembly [Fig. 5, 21] as disclosed in Fig. 5.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuki et al., Patent No. 6,188,307, in view of Walsh et al., Publication No. 20020089408.

With respect to claim 13, Katsuki discloses an assembly [Fig. 5; col. 1 lines 9-13] comprising a first electrical component [Fig. 5, 25] having a first electrical polarity; a second electrical component [Fig. 5, 26] having a second electrical polarity, the first electrical property and the second electrical property being substantially identical [abstract lines 6-8; both thermistors 25 and 26 have resistance]; a housing [Fig. 5, 21] that holds the first electrical component [Fig. 5, 25] and the second electrical component [Fig. 5, 26]; first terminals [Fig. 5, 30] on the housing that contact the first electrical component [Fig. 5, 25]; and second terminals [Fig. 5, 31] on the housing that contact the second electrical component [Fig. 5, 26]; wherein the housing has an underside [Fig. 5, bottom of housing 21]; wherein all terminals [Fig. 5, 30 and 31] of the assembly [Fig/ 1, 21] are on the underside of the housing for surface-mounting the assembly [The apparatus is designed to be surface mounted to communication equipment such as telephone exchanges, which typically comprises electronics mounted on circuit boards]; and wherein the terminals have an arrangement that corresponds to an arrangement of contacts on a printed circuit board [Fig. 5; it is inherent that the terminals are printed circuit board connectable in the inline arrangement]; and wherein the housing [Fig. 5, 21] has an upper side that completely covers the first electrical component and the second electrical component [col. 5 lines 66-67 show that another lid can be used to cover the first and second electrical components] and that protects the first electrical

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component and the second electrical component from a contact voltage [col. 5 lines 58-67].

However, Katsuki does not disclose that the assembly connects a printed circuit board to the first and second data transmission lines.

Walsh discloses a circuitry [Fig. 4] comprising a first data transmission line [Fig. 4, the top data line]; a second transmission line [Fig. 4, the bottom data line]; a data terminal connected to the first and second data transmission lines [par. 0069]; and an assembly [Fig. 4, made up of two thermistors 53 and 55] that connects a printed circuit board [par. 0014, lines 7-8 indicates that the thermistors are mounted on a PCB] to the first and second data transmission lines [Fig. 4, top and bottom data lines].

Katsuki and Walsh are analogous thermistor apparatuses used in communications equipments. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Walsh's circuitry, into Katsuki's assembly, for the benefit of protecting telecommunications circuits and equipments from overcurrent and overvoltage.

With respect to claim 15, Katsuki discloses that the first electrical component [Fig. 1, 5] and the second electrical component [Fig. 1, 6] comprise thermistors [col. 3 lines 65-67, abstract lines 3-4], and the first electrical property and the second electrical property comprise a first resistance and a second resistance, respectively, at a predefined temperature [col. 6 lines 32-35].

With respect to claim 16, Katsuki discloses that predefined temperature is 25 degrees Celsius [col. 6 lines 32-35].

With respect to claim 17, Katsuki discloses that the first resistance and the second resistance deviate by no more than 1 ohm [abstract lines 6-8, col. 1, lines 22-24].

With respect to claim 18, Katsuki teaches that the housing [Fig. 1, 1] comprises a partition [Fig. 1, 15] made of a material that is substantially electrically insulating [Col. 4, line 2], the partition [Fig. 1, 15] being between the first and second electrical components [Fig. 1, 5 and 6].

With respect to claim 19, Walsh discloses that the first data transmission line [Fig. 4, top data line] and the second data transmission line [Fig. 4, bottom data line] comprise telephone lines [par. 0006].

With respect to claim 20, Walsh further comprises the printed circuit board, the assembly [Fig. 4, made up of two PTC elements 53 and 55] being mounted on the printed circuit board [par. 0014, lines 7-8] via the first and second terminals and the contacts on the printed circuit board.

With respect to claim 21, Katsuki teaches that the terminals [Fig. 5, 30 and 31] are arranged in such a way that the assembly can only be inserted on the printed circuit board in a certain orientation [It is inherent that terminals 30 and 31 are printed circuit board connectable in a certain orientation in the inline arrangement].

With respect to claim 22, Katsuki teaches that the terminals [Fig. 5, 30 and 31] are arranged in a first row of terminals [Fig. 5, first row made up of terminals 30] and a second row of terminals [Fig. 5, second row made up of terminals 31], wherein the



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second row of terminals is shifted in a horizontal direction with respect to the first row terminals.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuki et al., Patent No. 6,188,307, in view of Walsh et al., Publication No. 2002/0089408, as applied to claims above, and further in view of Smith et al., Patent No. D292089.

Katsuki and Walsh disclose that the assembly further comprises an upper side, but does not disclose that the upper side of the housing comprises a planar section.

With respect to claim 14, Smith teaches that the upper side [Fig. 6] of the housing comprises a planar section. Applicant's acknowledged prior art teaches that it is well known to use an automated component insertion machine to separately connect two matched thermistors to the respective telephone lines of a telephone connection on a printed circuit board [Page 2, lines 12-14].

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuki et al., Patent No. 6,188,307, in view of Walsh et al., Publication No. 20020089408, as applied to claims above, and further in view of Bach, Publication No. 20020172259.

Katsuki and Walsh both disclose housing, but do not disclose that the housing comprises a liquid crystal polymer (LCP) material.

Bach teaches a temperature sensor enclosed in housing, and that that the housing comprises a liquid crystal polymer (LCP) material [page 3 par. 0026].

Katsuki and Bach disclose a temperature-measuring device inside housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Bach's temperature sensor in a housing made out of LCP, with

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Katsuki's assembly of temperature sensors, because liquid crystal polymer materials have excellent thermal, electrical insulation properties and mechanical properties, as well as short injection molding times [Bach, par. 0026 – 0029].

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 12/29/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Examiner points out that the Katsuki reference does disclose the limitation of "wherein the housing has an upper side....from a contact voltage." Col. 5 lines 66-67 show that the housing 21 can my covered by another lid to increase the seal at the openings of the cavities, which will completely cover the first electrical component and the second electrical component. See above rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DHARTI H. PATEL whose telephone number is (571)272-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on 571-272-2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dharti H Patel/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2836  
02/24/2008

/Stephen W Jackson/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2836